

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 904**

LCO No. 4613

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT WOMEN VETERANS'
PROGRAM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) The Department of
2 Veterans' Affairs shall establish, within available resources, a
3 Connecticut women veterans' program to (1) conduct outreach to
4 women veterans for the purpose of improving awareness of eligibility
5 for federal and state veterans' benefits and services; (2) conduct
6 assessments of the needs of women veterans with respect to benefits
7 and services; (3) review programs, research projects and other
8 initiatives designed to address or meet the needs of Connecticut's
9 women veterans; (4) submit recommendations for improving benefits
10 and services available to women veterans to the Commissioner of
11 Veterans' Affairs and, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
12 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the
13 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to military
14 and veterans' affairs annually on and after January 15, 2016; and (5)
15 incorporate women veterans' issues in strategic planning concerning
16 benefits and services. The commissioner may adopt regulations in
17 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes to supplement and
18 implement the provisions of this section. For the purposes of this
19 section, "veteran" means any person who was discharged or released

20 under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the
21 armed forces and "armed forces" has the same meaning as provided in
22 section 27-103 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	New section
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